

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WORK?

Greg Gwin

Occasionally we hear complaints from some Christians that they "just aren't being put to work," or that they "just aren't being used." What is generally meant is that these individuals are not frequently being called upon to word prayers during the public worship; or perhaps they are rarely scheduled to help pass the Lord's Supper; or it may be that their opportunities to lead singing or give a talk are few and far between.

Let us plainly state that all the above mentioned activities are good and important. We want to encourage every male Christian to grow and develop in all these vital roles. But, having said that, we would also urge everyone to realize that these things do not, in and of themselves, constitute full and complete service to the Lord.

There are so many other opportunities to serve in areas where we urgently need your help. "Lift up your eyes and look" (John 4:35). You are surrounded by lost souls that need to be taught about salvation. Your own knowledge of the Scriptures needs to be increased by diligent study and personal preparation. You are needed to help encourage and strengthen some of your brethren who are weak and struggling. Do you get the point? Many opportunities await the humble, faithful servant who is looking to work for the Lord.

Don't be deceived into thinking that if you are seldom used in the public assemblies you are, therefore, not being 'used' effectively. And, likewise, don't fall into the trap of thinking that if you are frequently called upon to pray, lead singing, or wait on the table you are necessarily doing all of the real work that God desires of you. Duties performed during the worship assemblies are important, but they are not the absolute test of your service to the Lord. -

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00



- www.defendthegospel.com
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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WHY SOME WON'T "GO TO CHURCH"

Michael Pickford

I use the word "Go to church" in an accommodative way - to speak of the idea of assembling with the saints in a particular locale. Why do many stay away from the church?...

They Think They're Too Sinful. Those who made up the church of Corinth had previously been adulterers, thieves, drunkards, homosexuals etc, they came to Jesus and were washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Those in Acts 2 were guilty of murdering Jesus, yet they could have remission of sins (Acts 2:35-38). Paul was the chief of sinners, a persecutor of the church, and a murderer of christians (1 Tim. 1:15; Gal 1:13; Acts 26:10-11), yet he had his sins washed away (Acts 22:16).

They Don't Have Nice Clothes. God looks on the heart (1 Sam. 16:7).

Their Financial Situation. Salvation is offered to the rich, the poor, and those in between. (Jms 2:1-7; Rom 1:15-16). John the Baptist was to be encouraged because "The poor have the Gospel preached to them" (Matt 11:5).


They Have Little Children. Those children need to be here too; they need to learn about God from the beginning of their lives (Ecc 12:1). Jesus wanted the children to come to Him (Mtt 19:14).!

There are Hypocrites In The Church. Sadly, this is often the case, but there are also hypocrites in the workplace, the grocery store, at the ballgames, in the movie theaters, and just about anywhere else you go. It's better to spend a little time with them in the pews rather than spending eternity with them in hell (2 Ths 1:7-9).

They Have Company. Don't let company hinder you from worshipping God.

Invite them to come along, if they won't come, you have the opportunity to show them how important serving God is if you go ahead and come anyway! Seek the Lord first (Mtt 10:34-39).

They Think They Have Plenty of Time. "Tomorrow" is a word found on a fool's calendar. Our lives could easily be snuffed out today (Jms 4:13-17). What's more, the Lord could return at any moment (Mtt 24:36).

Zacchaeus was willing to do whatever it took to see Jesus (Luke 19:1-10), and he was rewarded for it. Let us all have his attitude! 

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BEING REBUKED

Michael Pickford

None of us like to be wrong. None of us like to be confronted about anything we have said or done. We don't like to have our faults or weaknesses pointed out or discussed. Nevertheless, we need it. What's more, God instructs us to aid one another in this manner (Galatians 6:1; Lk 17:3). When someone commits sin, their soul is in danger, and the loving thing to do is to speak to them and strive to get them to repent and receive God's forgiveness. Not only do we dislike being reproved, but we dislike the confrontation involved in being the one doing the reproving. In this article, let's discuss some ways that I should react should someone confront me...

- **Don't Hate Your Rebuker** (Amos 5:10). There is a tendency to feel bitterness towards someone who loves us enough to confront us with our faults and wrongdoings. Understand that they are being a true friend, their rebuke may save your life, and more importantly, your soul! (Proverbs 27:5-6).
- **Don't Refuse The Rebuke**. "*He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray*" (Proverbs 10:17). We may have the tendency to disregard the rebuke, to chalk it up to a misunderstanding on the part of the one rebuking too quickly. Listen to their concerns; give their words deep and serious consideration without automatically despising it (Proverbs 1:30). It is the honorable thing to regard any rebuke we receive (Proverbs 13:18).
- **Love & Appreciate Your Rebuker**. If someone rebukes us, instead of listening to the rebuke, we allow bitterness to overtake us. Instead of loving the one rebuking us for loving us enough to confront us, we react to the rebuke in very unwise ways, which makes us scoffers (Proverbs 9:8).
 - The Counter-attack: When someone points out a fault to us, we immediately respond to them with our own criticism of something in their life. This is done to take the spotlight off our own fault(s) so as to take us off the defensive. It is unwise and unjust. Unwise because the rebuke they are giving us could save our souls; Unjust because if we knew about something amiss in their life, we should have already shown the proper love towards them by going to speak to them about it instead of waiting until they try to speak with us about something we may need to correct.
 - The Belittling maneuver: We might respond to the rebuke by asking our rebuker who they think they are rebuking us. We then portray ourselves to them as being holier than them, more knowledgeable, and more experienced. But all of this is irrelevant if we genuinely needed to be confronted. If we have true knowledge, holiness, experience, and wisdom, we will appreciate and love them for having the courage to confront us (Proverbs 1:5).

Keep in mind that "*Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed,*" and "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend*" (Proverbs 27:5-6). We should be thankful to have true friends who love us enough to speak to us when they believe we have gone astray. ☞

GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

Michael Pickford

- 1) It is Christ On The Cross: 2 Cor 9:15; Rom 5:6-9
- 2) Man Did Nothing To Deserve It: Rom 5:6-9; Eph 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-5; 1 Jn 4:9-11
- 3) It is Available to ALL Men: Titus 2:11; 1 Cor 6:9-11
- 4) It Must Be Responded To With Man's Obedient Faith: Eph 2:8-10; Heb 5:8-9; Mk 16:16
- 5) It Teaches Us That We Must Live Moral and Obedient Lives: Titus 2:11-12
- 6) It must Be Preached: Titus 2:15
- 7) It Can be Rejected By Men: Hebrews 10:26-29 ☞

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller
Reading: John 4:5-10
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....Tony Jenkins
 - Serve.....Michael Pickford
 - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**